# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2454
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has formulated a new scheme to provide incentives to farmers for the optimum use of improved and modern agricultural technology and other inputs in order to increase production and to cut production cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds to be provided for the said scheme; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers from the said scheme?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The following schemes have been launched:

A. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms` launched during 2005-06, aims at delivery of farmer driven extension services for disseminating information on modern agriculture technologies and other support services, which may help increase production and productivity through a new institutional arrangements in the form of ATMA. ATMA have active participation of farmers/ farmer groups, NGOs, KVKs, PRIs and other stakeholders operating at the district level and below.

ATMAs have been established in 565 districts. Over 18 lakhs farmers have been benefited in different extension activities, so far. Farmer oriented activities under the scheme includes Trainings, Demonstrations, Exposure Visit, Group Mobilization & Capacity Building, Exhibition, Information Technology, Research-Extension-Farmer linkages.

An amount of Rs.240.65 Crore has been released so far during last 3 years and a provision of Rs.298.00 Crore has been made for 2008-09.

B. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `National Horticulture Mission (NHM)` is being implemented for the holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring forward and backward linkages with the active participation of all the stake holders.Under the scheme, assistance is being provided to the farmers for taking up various activities related to horticulture such as area coverage, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation organic farming, promotion of integrated nutrient management/integrated pest management and bee-keeping.Besides assistance is also being provided for creation of water resources and infrastructure for post harvest management and markets.An amount of Rs.1575.29 Crore has been released to the State Horticulture Mission and National Level Agencies during 2005-06 and 2006-07.An outlay of Rs.1150.00 Crore was earmarked for implementing the scheme during 2008-09.

C. A Central Sector Scheme `Post Harvest Technology & Management` formulated to implementation during 11th Plan aims at establishment of units for transfer of primary processing, technology, value addition, low cost scientific storage, packaging units and technologies for bi-product management, demonstration of technologies, training of farmers, entrepreneurs and scientist.The outlay of the scheme for 11th Plan is Rs.40.00 Crore.

D. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `National Bamboo Mission` has been launched across the country for implementation in the last quarter of 2006-07 with 100% central assistance at a total cost of Rs.56,82,300/- thousand including a outlay of Rs.7,00,00/- thousand during 2006-08 (10th Plan) and next four years of the 11th Five Year Plan.The Mission activities are spread over a period of 5 years and they are at present implemented in 25 States.

E. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `Micro Irrigation` has been launched in January,2008, during 10th Plan for covering a total area of 6.2 lakh hac. under Micro Irrigation. The scheme is launched to achieve greater Water Use Efficiency resulting in enhanced productivity and better quality of produce. Under this scheme drip and sprinkler irrigation is being promoted on a large scale. Assistance is provided to all categories of farmers @ 50% for drip/sprinkler system implementation and @ 75% for training and demonstration. The drip and sprinkler irrigation system is being implemented in each district of the State for both horticulture crops as well as non-horticulture crops.

F. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `National Food Security Mission (NFSM)` has been launched in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tones, respectively by the end of 11th Plan. The mission aims at increasing production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility and productivity, creating employment opportunities, and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers of targeted districts.Various activities of NFSM relate to demonstration of improved production technology, distribution of quality seeds of HYVs and hybrids,popularization of newly released varieties, support for micro nutrients, gypsum, zero tillage,rotavators, weeders and other farm implements, IPM, INM, extension, water lifting and moisture saving devices training and mass media campaign including awards for best performing districts.Besides, the pilot projects on community generators, control of blue bulls and demonstration of ICRISAT technologies would also be implemented. An amount of Rs.39875.00 lakh has been allocated for implementation of various activities under NFSM during 2007-08, out of which Rs.38105.26 lakh has been released to various states.

G. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched with an approved outlay of Rs.25,000/- Crore for the 11th Five Year Plan. The main objective of the scheme is to incentivize the States to increase public investment in Agriculture & allied sectors. For the current year an outlay of Rs.1500/- Crore has been approved under this scheme, which has been allocated to the States/UTs in consultation with the Planning Commission. The funds under the scheme would be provided to the States as 100% grant by the Central Government. The distribution of the funds among the States will be in two streams − Stream-I and Stream-II. Under Stream-I, at least 75% of the RKVY fund will be made available for specific projects/schemes/programmes proposed by the State which have been approved as part of the State and District Plans.Under Stream-II 25% of the total RKVY fund to a State in a year will be made available for strengthening existing State Sector schemes and implementing the Districts Agriculture Plans that will aggregate to the State Agriculture Plan.The purpose of the RKVY Scheme under this stream would be to fill the gaps in resources for such District/State Agriculture Plans. The funds will be routed through the State Agriculture Department which will be the nodal department for the scheme. Funds to the tune of about Rs.984.59 Crore have already been released under RKVY including Rs.46.90 Crore which have been released to the State Government for preparation of District Agriculture Plan (DAPs) @ Rs.10 lakh per district.

(c): The anticipated benefits to be accrued to the farmers under the Schemes are:

# Change of mind-set, awareness generation & knowledge-gain about the new modern agricultural technologies.

# Enhancement of skill performance level.

# Enhanced adoption of new/improved technologies.

# Reduction in on-farm production losses.

# On-farm value addition of produce.

# Higher employment and income for rural population due to diversification of activities in the production catchments.